

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY POUCH
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138839

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDIP, MARR, EAID, PGOV, MOPS, KS , KN, US

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH, JR.

1. ROK CULTURAL CENTERS ENVISAGED IN USA (CONFIDENTIAL)

ON MAY 30, THE ROK EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED WITH ME THE ROKG DESIRE TO OPEN CULTURAL CENTERS IN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS CONSULATES GENERAL IN THOSE CITIES. I HAVE ASKED THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE US A FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTE SEEKING USG CONCURRENCE IN THIS STEP. I ALSO ASKED FOR CONSIDERABLE DETAIL TO BE PROVIDED. UPON LEARNING THAT THE CENTERS WILL BE FOCUSSED PRIMARILY ON THE KOREAN-AMERICAN POPULATION, I STRESSED THAT A
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CLEAR LINE MUST BE DRAWN AGAINST POLITICAL MANIPULATION OF THE KOREAN RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS, AND THAT WE WOULD WISH TO SCRUTINIZE THE STAFFING AND OPERATION OF THE CENTERS QUITE CAREFULLY. OTHERWISE, FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED HAD MUCH VERSIMILITUDE TO OUR USIS CENTERS, OF WHICH WE HAVE FOUR IN SOUTH KOREA. (RGR)

2. SCM MEETING SCHEDULED (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE 1978 ROK-US SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTERS HAS NOW TENTATIVELY BEEN SET FOR JULY 26-27 IN SAN DIEGO. SECRETARY BROWN WILL HEAD THE US DELEGATION. AT THIS STAGE BOTH ROK AND US PLANNERS ARE FINDING FEW REAL ISSUES FOR THIS YEAR'S SESSION. IF CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TRANSFER IN CONNECTION WITH SECOND DIVISION WITHDRAWAL, MOST DISCUSSION WILL PROBABLY FOCUS ON A REAFFIRMATION OF PRESENT TRENDS AND PROGRAMS, WITH SOME SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REVOLVING AROUND CERTAIN WEAPONS SALES AND THE DATE FOR INITIATING THE PROJECTED JOINT US-ROK COMBINED FORCES COMMAND. (RGR)

3. PL-480 AMENDMENT FINALLY RESOLVED (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

HAVING SURVIVED THE PERILS OF PAULINE FOR MANY WEEKS, FORMAL NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PENDING PL-480 AMENDMENT WERE DISPATCHED TO EMBASSY SEOUL MAY 31. WHEN THIRD COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS ARE COMPLETED AROUND THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO AUTHORIZE THE EMBASSY TO PROCEED AND CONCLUDE THE AMENDMENT WITH THE ROKG. THIS AMENDMENT, WORTH \$60 MILLION (FY 1978 FUNDS) WILL PROVIDE CORN AND WHEAT. (RGR)

4. HOUSE PASSES RESOLUTION ON KIM DONG-JO (UNCLASSIFIED)
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BY AN OVERWHELMING VOTE OF 321 TO 46, THE FULL HOUSE PASSED A "SENSE OF THE HOUSE" RESOLUTION MAY 31 CALLING UPON THE ROKG TO PROVIDE THE TESTIMONY OF FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEE. THE VERSION PASSED WAS IDENTICAL TO THE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WORKED OUT IN THE HIRC BY CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI LAST WEEK. THE HIRC REPORT STRESSED THAT ITS DELIBERATIONS HAD BEEN GUIDED BY ITS CONCERN NOT TO ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT THAT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON RIGHTS UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION OR AFFECT THE PERCEPTION OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS AS TO THE STRENGTH OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO SOUTH KOREA, AND THAT IT HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE AIMS OF THE RESOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT A COERCIVE THREAT. THE COMMITTEE REPORTED THAT ASSISTANCE TO KOREA "THAT COULD BE AFFECTED" WAS \$56 MILLION IN PL-480 AND \$3.3 MILLION IN PEACE CORPS BUDGET. BOTH BILLS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN EARLY JUNE. SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE HIRC SUBMITTED ADDITIONAL OR DISSENTING VIEWS EXPRESSING PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT THE RESOLUTION NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. INTERESTS OR ROK SECURITY. (RGR)

5. EMBASSY TO PRESS ROKG TO REPATRIATE NORTH KOREAN

FISHERMEN (CONFIDENTIAL)

WEHAVE ENDORSED THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL TO PRESS THE ROKG TO REPATRIATE THE EIGHT SURVIVORS FROM A NORTH KOREA FISHING BOAT SUNK BY PURSUING SOUTH KOREAN NAVY CRAFT OFF THE EAST COAST MAY 19. ALTHOUGH THE NORTH KOREANS FIRED ON THEIR PURSUERS, SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE BOAT WAS A FISHING VESSEL WHICH HAD STRAYED SOUTH. THE SOUTH KOREANS ARE FACED WITH THE DILEMMA OF REVERSING A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY HAD SUNK A SPY VESSEL, BUT WE THINK THAT THE CREWMEN SOULD BE RETURNED WITHOUR FURTHER DELAY TO ENCOURAGE THE NORTH KOREANS TO CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF PROMPTLY RETURNING SOUTH KOREANS AND AMERICANS WHO INADVERTENTLY CROSS THE MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE. (FM)
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6. ROKG DIPLOMATIC CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THE KOREAN EMBASSY DCM IN WASHINGTON, MINISTER KOO CHUNG-WHAY, HAS BEEN NAMED ROK AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA AND WILL DEPART WASHINGTON IN MID-JUNE. HE IS FLUENT IN SPANISH. HIS SUCCESSOR AS DCM HERE WILL BE DR. OH MYUNG-HO, PRESENTLY CONSUL GENERAL IN ATLANTA. DR. OH, WHO IS AMB KIM'S PERSONAL CHOICE, IS A FORMER PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE WHO HAS ALSO HAD TWO STINTS ON PRESIDENT PARK'S BLUE HOUSE STAFF AND WAS ONCE HIS SPEECH WRITER. HE RECEIVED HIS MA FROM THE EAST-WEST CENTER AND HIS PHD FROM THE UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND HAS BEEN IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE SINCE 1972. OH WILL TAKE UP HIS DUTIES HERE IN LATE JUNE. (RGR)

7. WOODROW WILSON SEMINAR ON KOREA (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

I ATTENDED THE SECOND WOODROW WILSON CENTER SEMINAR ON KOREA LAST WEEK. THIS SECOND IN THE SERIES UNDER RALPH CLOUGH'S LEADERSHIP DISCUSSED "CONFRONTATION AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS." IT WAS WELL ATTENDED BY SCHOLARS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS WITH LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN THE ISSUE. IF THERE WAS ANY CONSENSUS, IT WAS THAT THERE ARE BOTH CLEAR ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES FOR BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA IN RENEWING A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE, AND THAT RATHER THAN TRY TO CREATE TALKS BY SLEIGHT OF HAND THE LONG TERM APPROACH SHOULD BE TO TRY TO MAXIMIZE THE ADVANTAGES AND REDUCE THE DISADVANTAGES FOR BOTH PARTIES. THE NEXT SESSION IN SEPTEMBER WILL TURN TO THOUGHTS OF A U.S. ROLE. (RGR) VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED PORT MORESBY.
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